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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,741	09/29/2003	Maximillian Kusz		9443

7590 03/30/2005
Maximillian Kusz
9947 Sheffield Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551

EXAMINER

HYLTON, ROBIN ANNETTE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

sn

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/672,741	KUSZ, MAXIMILLIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robin A. Hylton	3727	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Robin Hylton. (3) _____.

(2) Maximillian Kusz. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 28 March 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: --.

Identification of prior art discussed: Silk (US 2004/0262310).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

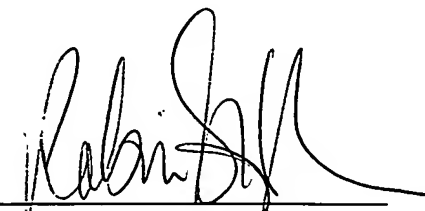
Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The above reference cited on form PTO-892 was not supplied to applicant. It is being mailed to applicant herewith.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

See Attachment

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiner's Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.



US 20040262310A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Silk(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0262310 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Dec. 30, 2004**(54) **STORAGE CONTAINER CONVERTIBLE TO
A CLOSED OBJECT**

(57)

ABSTRACT(76) **Inventor: Terence J. Silk, Southbury, CT (US)**

Correspondence Address:

**WARE FRESSOLA VAN DER SLUYS &
ADOLPHSON, LLP****BRADFORD GREEN BUILDING 5
755 MAIN STREET, P O BOX 224
MONROE, CT 06468 (US)**(21) **Appl. No.: 10/835,037**(22) **Filed: Apr. 29, 2004****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) **Provisional application No. 60/466,209, filed on Apr.
29, 2003.****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ B65D 41/04**(52) **U.S. Cl. 220/288; 220/293**

A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object has a receptacle with an outside surface corresponding to the partial exterior of a closed object; and with an interior surface defining a storage chamber. A lid covers the entry opening and thereby closes the storage chamber, the lid having an outside surface corresponding to the remaining exterior of the closed object. The receptacle and lid together define releasable engagement structure for removably securing the lid on the receptacle, wherein the lid may be removed to place and remove items from the storage chamber, the releasable engagement structure incrementally spacing the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exterior of the closed object. The receptacle and lid further define the snap-fit securing structure for permanently securing the lid on the receptacle with the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exteriors of the closed object co-joined. The closed object may have the shape of an object of play, e.g. a hockey puck. The releasable engagement structure may be cooperative threads on a bayonet-type engagement. The snap-fit engagement is a flange received in a groove.

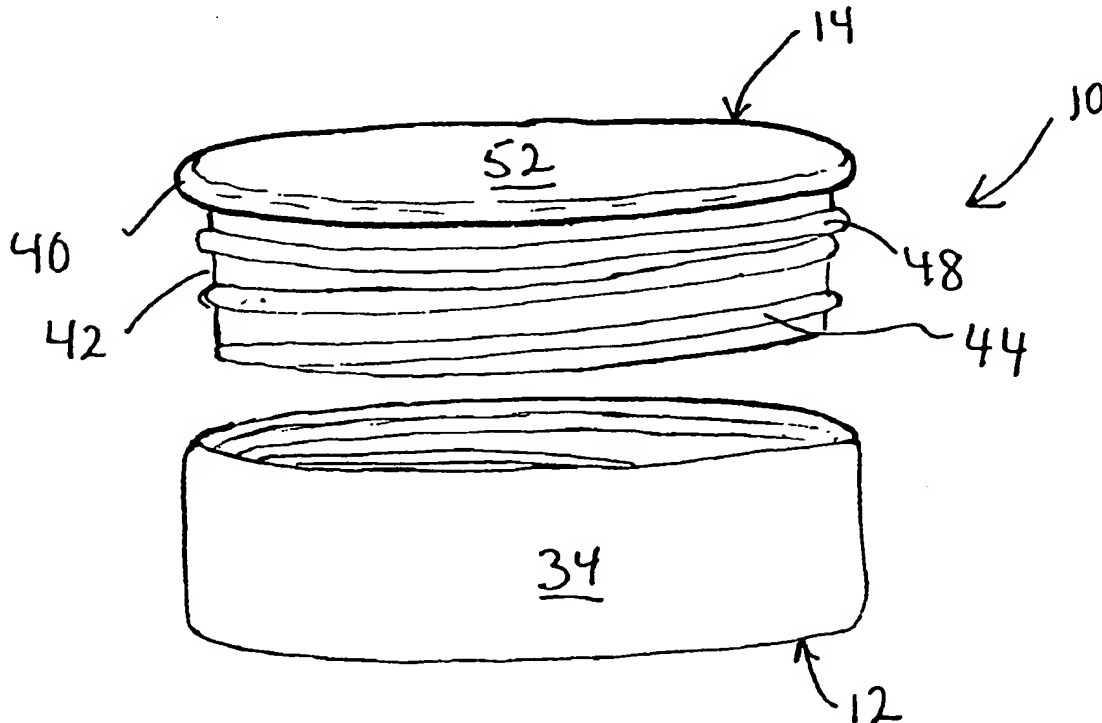


FIG 1

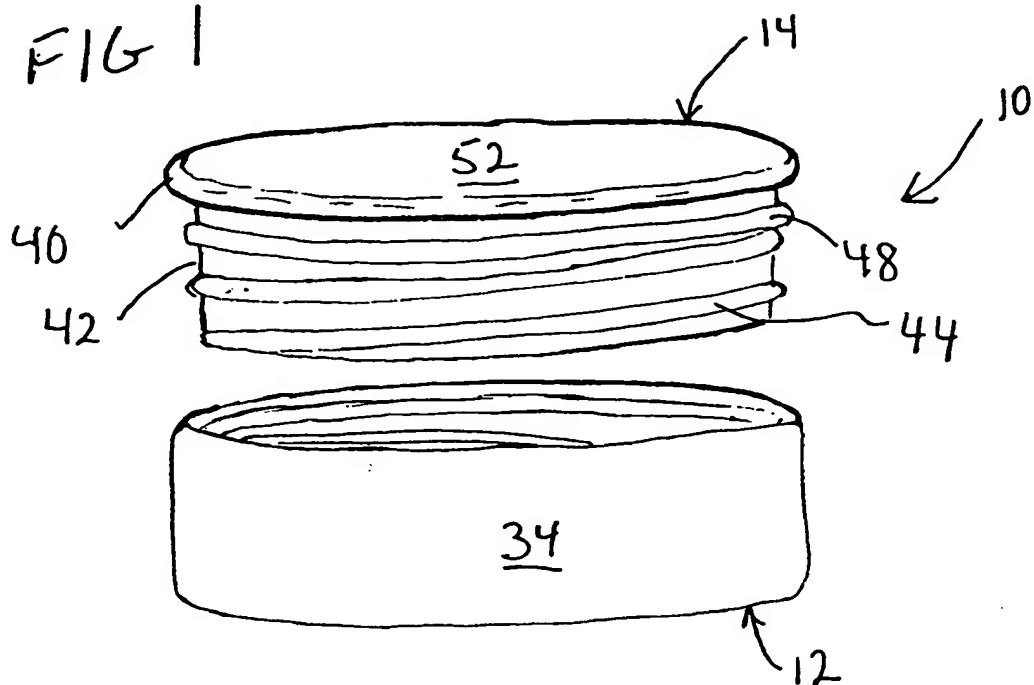
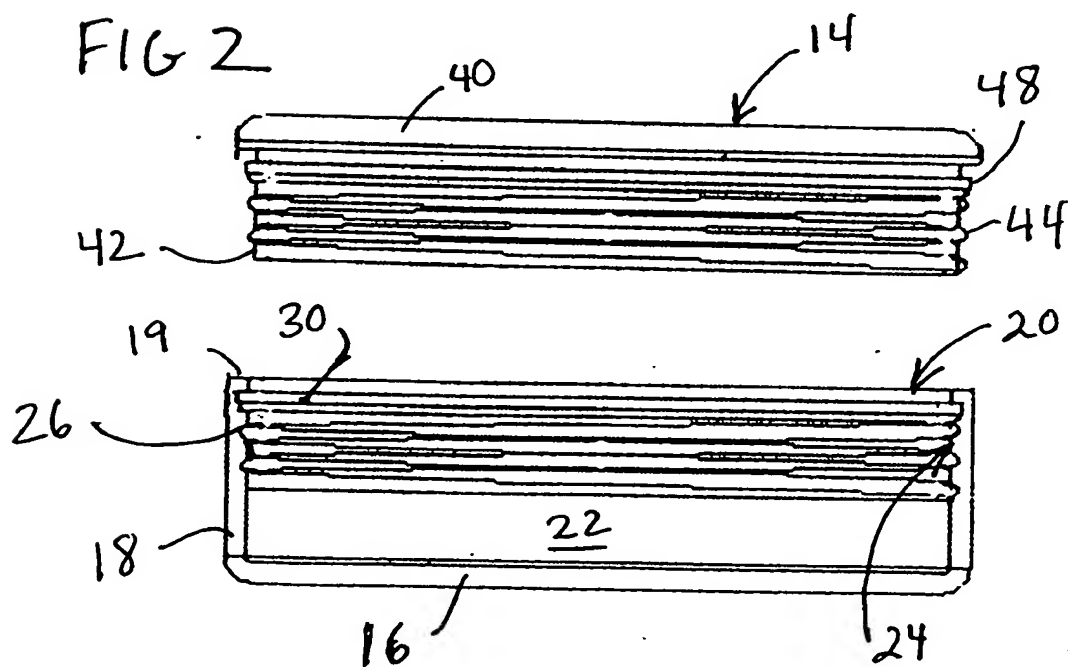


FIG 2



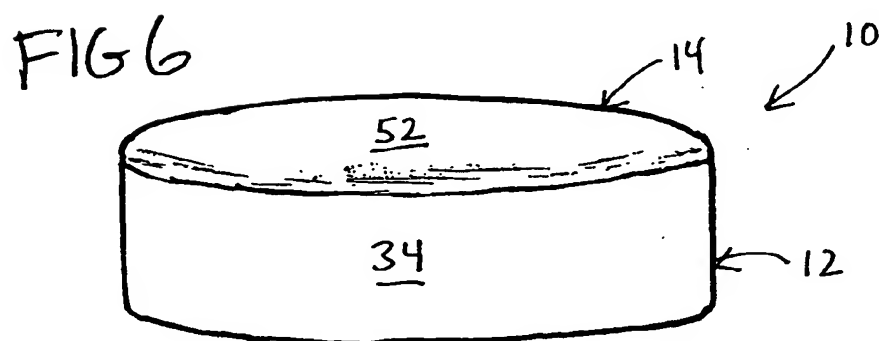
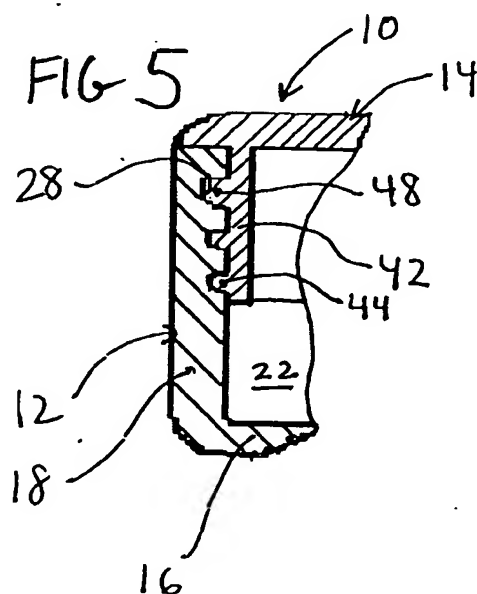
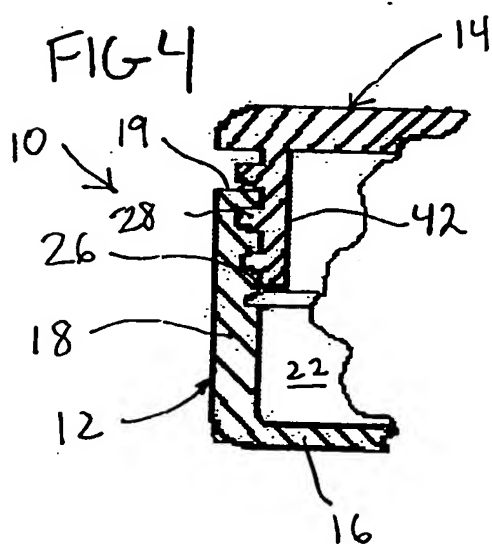
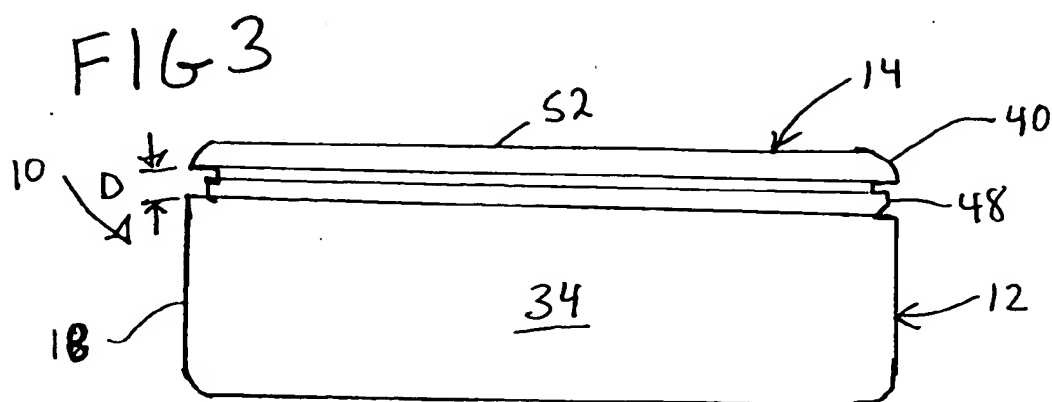


FIG 7

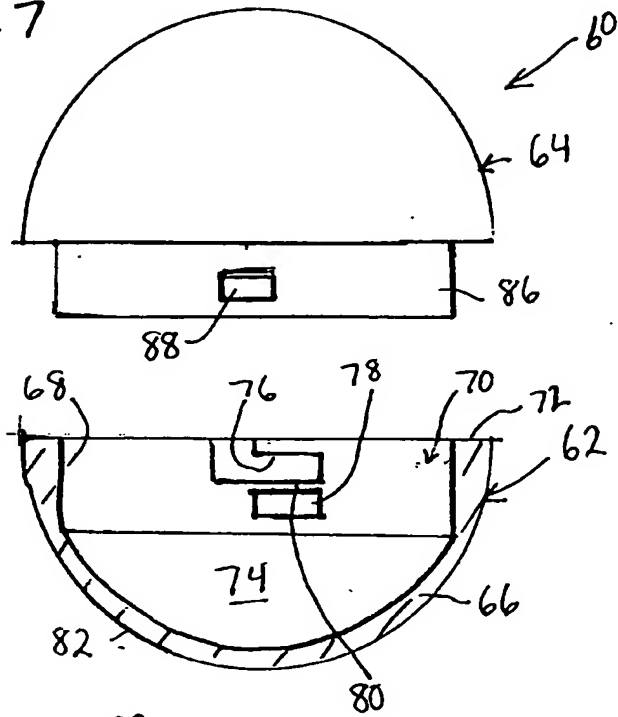


FIG 8

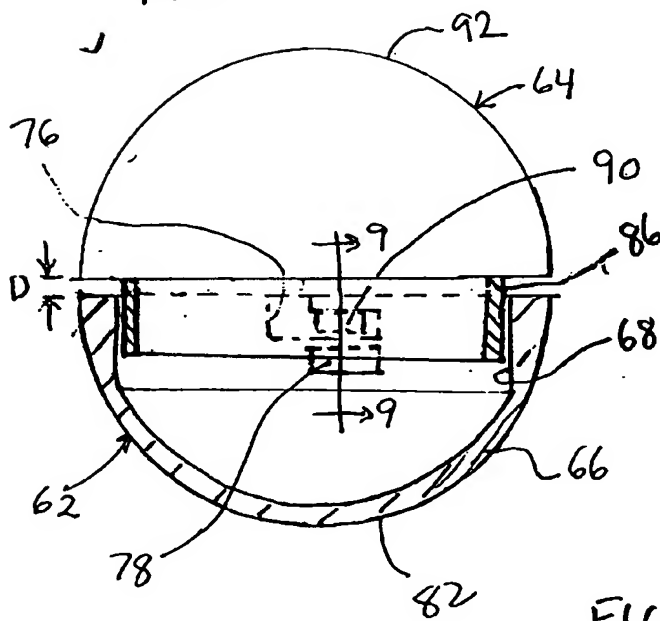


FIG 9.

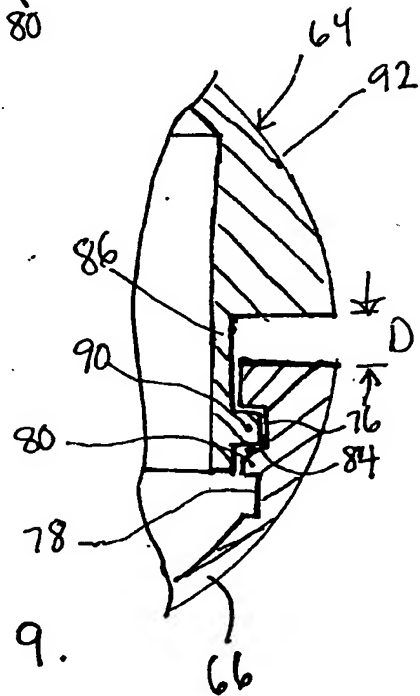


FIG 10

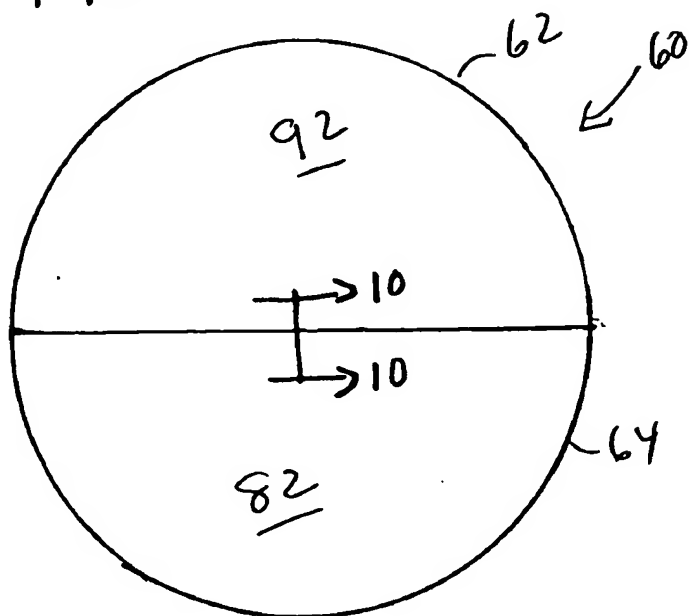
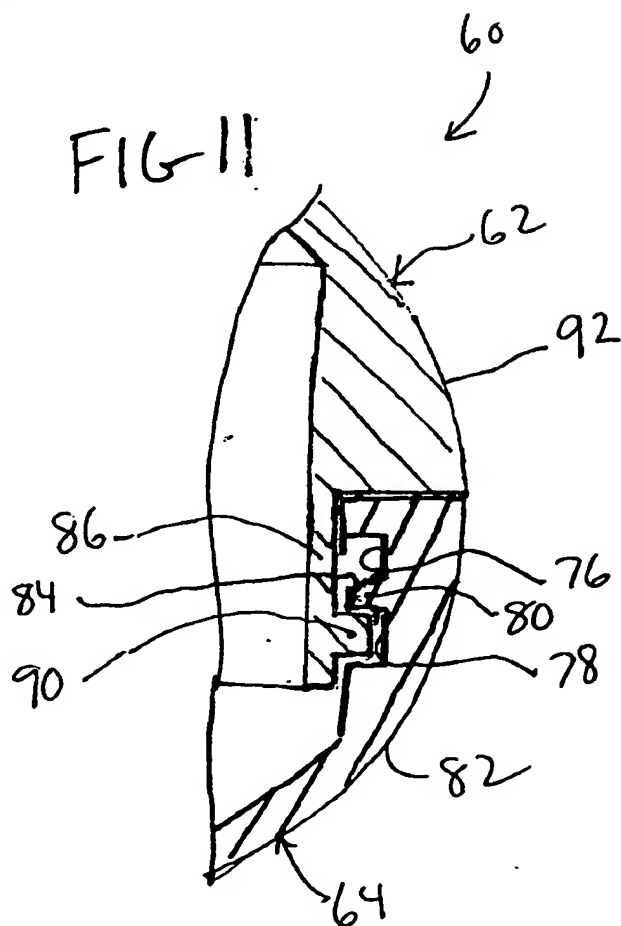


FIG 11



STORAGE CONTAINER CONVERTIBLE TO A CLOSED OBJECT

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to my provisional application Ser. No. 60/466,209 filed Apr. 29, 2003.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention herein relates to a storage container and particularly a storage container useful in marketing small items, wherein the storage container is convertible to a permanently closed object after consumption or use of the small items.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Candy, gum, and other small consumable items are sold in packaging that provides for closed storage and selective removal of the items for consumption. Plastic boxes with lids or dispensers are sometimes utilized, such as in selling Tic Tac brand mints. Small tins or cardboard boxes are used to package and sell mints and lozenges, such as Sucrets brand lozenges. Small consumable items are also sold in cardboard boxes (such as Milkduds brand candies), sealed plastic bags (M&M brand candies) and rolls (Life-savers brand candies). Such packaging is suitable for the purpose of selling and the small consumable items and storing them until consumption, but rarely have any utility once the consumable items are gone. Also, although the packages may have attractive trade dress, they lack any true uniqueness and panache in and of themselves.

[0004] Candy, gum and other small consumables are also often linked to a sports marketing theme. Bubble gum and baseball cards are a classic example of such marketing tie-ins, and ice cream has been sold in plastic replicas of team logo baseball batting helmets. Purchasers are attracted to the product by the dual lure of the sports memorabilia as well as the product itself. The businesses marketing such products reap additional benefits in that product awareness continues if the associated packaging item is retained by the purchaser after consumption of the product.

[0005] It is believed that a sports associated appeal of a product could be enhanced if the product were useful after consumption of the items sold therein. It is also believed that this concept has applicability outside the area of sports and in association with items other than edibles.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention herein to provide a storage container for small items that is convertible to a permanently closed object.

[0007] It is an additional object of the invention herein to provide a container suitable for selling small items and which, after disposition of the small items, may be permanently closed to form an object of play.

[0008] It is a further object of the invention herein to provide a container for selling candy or gum and which is convertible to a sports object, such as a hockey puck or baseball.

[0009] It is also an object of the invention to provide an improvement in both the packaging, trade dress, and long-term product awareness associated with the sale of products.

[0010] In carrying out the objects of the invention herein, a storage container convertible to a permanently closed object has a receptacle and a lid. The receptacle has an outside surface corresponding to the partial exterior of the closed object and has an interior surface defining a storage chamber, the interior surface also defining a bore extending from an entry opening into the storage chamber. The lid covers the entry opening, thereby closing the storage chamber. The lid has an outside surface corresponding to the remaining exterior of the closed object, and the lid includes a skirt receivable in the bore of the receptacle. The bore and skirt together define releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid on the receptacle, wherein the lid may be removed to place items in and remove items from the storage chamber. The releasable engagement means incrementally spaces the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exterior of the closed object. Snap-fit securing means are also defined by the bore and skirt together, for permanently securing the lid on the receptacle with the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exteriors of the closed object co-joined.

[0011] According to one aspect of the invention, the closed object is an object of sports play. The object of sports play may be a hockey puck, ball or other such object.

[0012] According to other aspects of the invention, the releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid on the receptacle are mating screw threads formed on the bore of the receptacle and on the skirt of the lid. Alternatively, bayonet-style releasable engagement means or other releasable engagement means may be provided.

[0013] Also according to aspects of the invention, the snap-fit securing means are a flange and groove configuration. In a more particular aspect, a flange extends outwardly from the skirt of the lid, and a groove extends inwardly from the surface of the bore. In a particular aspect, the groove is adjacent the entry opening to the bore, and extends peripherally around the bore. Also more particularly, the flange extends from the skirt, and extends peripherally around the skirt.

[0014] Other and more specific objects and features of the invention herein will in part be readily understood by those skilled in the art and in part will appear in the following description of the preferred embodiments and the claims, taken together with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0015] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a storage container according to the invention herein, having the shape of a hockey puck and shown with its lid removed from its receptacle;

[0016] FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the hockey puck storage container of FIG. 1, with its lid removed and the receptacle thereof shown in section;

[0017] FIG. 3 is a side elevation view of the hockey puck storage container of FIG. 1, with the lid removably secured on the receptacle thereof;

[0018] FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the hockey puck storage container of FIG. 1, taken along the lines 4-4 of FIG. 3;

[0019] FIG. 5 is a side elevation view of the storage container of FIG. 1, shown with the lid permanently secured to the receptacle;

[0020] FIG. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the storage container of FIG. 1, taken along the lines 6-6 of FIG. 5;

[0021] FIG. 7 is a side elevation view of another storage container according to the invention herein having the shape of a ball, and shown with the lid thereof removed from the receptacle thereof and the receptacle in section;

[0022] FIG. 8 is a side elevation view partially in section and partially dotted, of the ball storage container of FIG. 1, showing the lid removably received on the receptacle thereof;

[0023] FIG. 9 is a sectional view of the ball storage container of FIG. 7 taken along the lines 9-9 of FIG. 8;

[0024] FIG. 10 is a side elevation view, partially schematic, of the storage container of FIG. 7 shown with the lid permanently secured on the receptacle thereof; and

[0025] FIG. 11 is a sectional view of the ball storage container of FIG. 7, taken along the lines 11-11 of FIG. 10.

[0026] The same reference numerals refer to the same elements throughout the various figures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0027] A first storage container 10 is illustrated in FIGS. 1-6, and generally comprises a receptacle 12 and a lid 14. When the lid 14 is removably secured on the receptacle 12, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the storage container 10 may be used in connection with the sale and consumption of small items, and particularly edibly consumable items such as gum or candy. When the lid 14 is permanently secured on the receptacle 12, as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, the storage container 10 has the shape of a hockey puck and may be used in playing street hockey or the like.

[0028] The receptacle 12 of the storage container 10 has a bottom 16 and a peripheral side wall 18 upstanding therefrom. The peripheral side wall 18 has an top rim 19 forming an entry opening 20 to the receptacle 12, and the bottom 16 and peripheral side wall 18 define a storage chamber within the receptacle 12.

[0029] The receptacle 12 also defines a bore 24 extending from the entry opening 20 into the storage chamber 22 of the receptacle 12. In the hockey puck configuration of the storage container 10, the bore 24 is formed on the interior surface of the peripheral side wall 18.

[0030] The bore 24 defines one part 26 of releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid 14 on the receptacle 12. In the storage container 10, the part 26 of the releasable engagement means is provided in the form of threads, also given reference numeral 26.

[0031] The bore 24 further defines a first part 30 of snap-fit securing means for permanently securing the lid 14 to the receptacle 12. In the storage container 10, the first part of the snap engagement means is provided in the form of a peripheral groove, also given reference number 30, positioned adjacent the entry opening 20 above the threads 26.

[0032] As noted above and shown in FIG. 6, when the receptacle 12 and the lid 14 are permanently secured together, the storage container 10 becomes a closed object with the shape of a hockey puck. The outer surface 34 of the receptacle 12 forms the partial exterior of the hockey puck.

[0033] The lid 14 of the storage container 10 has a top 40 and a depending cylindrical skirt 42. The cylindrical skirt 42 defines the second part 44 of releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid 14 to the receptacle 12, in the form of threads, also given reference number 44. The skirt also defines the second portion 48 of snap-fit securing means for permanently securing the lid 14 on the receptacle 12, in the form of a radially extending flange also given reference number 48. In the preferred embodiment shown, the peripheral groove 30 and the radially extending flange 48 are continuous about the periphery of bore 24 and the skirt 42, respectively, but it will be appreciated that the flange may be provided in arcuate sections and the peripheral groove 30 may be provided in corresponding alignable arcuate sections, if desired.

[0034] The bore 24 may be stepped or discontinuous, if desired, and the skirt may also be stepped. The terms "bore" and "skirt" as used herein are meant to provide nomenclature for the surfaces that define the releasable closure means and the snap-fit securement means, whether or not those surfaces and means are adjacent or spaced apart. The releasable engagement means and snap-fit securing means may be found at any suitable location or locations on the receptacle and lid, as desired.

[0035] The outer surface 54 of the lid 14 provides the remaining exterior of the hockey puck as a closed object.

[0036] With reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, when the lid 14 is removed from the receptacle, there is access to the storage chamber 22. Small items of virtually any type may be positioned within the storage chamber 22 for later retrieval. It is particularly anticipated that the small items may be gum or candy.

[0037] The skirt 42 of the lid 14 may be inserted through the entry opening 20 to engage the threads 44 of the skirt with the threads 26 of the bore 24 of the receptacle 12. The lid 14 may then be rotated to inter-engage the threads and thereby removably close the storage container 10, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. In the removably closed position, the flange 48 is engaged on the top rim 19, and the lid 14 including its outer surface 52 is spaced by an increment D above the receptacle 12 and its outer surface 34.

[0038] When the storage container 10 is sold with small items, such as gum or candy, therein, it will be appreciated that the container has the general appearance of a hockey puck with the exception of the gap increment D between the receptacle 12 and the lid 14. This shape is especially well adapted for marketing purposes, in that the outer surface 52 of the lid 14 is mostly a circular flat surface available to accept trademarks, logos, trade dress and product information. Additionally, the outer surface 34 of the receptacle 12 includes the outside of the peripheral wall 18 and the outside of bottom 16, which are also surfaces well-adapted to the display of trademarks, logos, trade dress and product information.

[0039] When it is no longer desired to use the storage container 10 as a receptacle 12 with a removable lid 14, the

lid 14 may be permanently captured on the receptacle 12, thereby eliminating the increment D and achieving the co-joined exterior of a closed object, which in this embodiment is an object of sports play; namely a hockey puck. The storage container 10 configured as a closed object is shown in FIG. 6. This is achieved by applying axial compressive force to the receptacle 12 and lid 14 when they are in the removably secured position shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. The compressive force causes the flange 48 to snap-fit into the peripheral groove 30, as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6. It will be appreciated that the engaged threads 26 and 44 also experience an incremental indexing to accommodate the full insertion of the skirt 42 into the bore 24.

[0040] The receptacle 12 and lid 14 are thermoplastic or thermoplastic resin which is sufficiently flexible to achieve the snap engagement described above, and is sufficiently rigid to maintain the receptacle 12 and lid 14 as a permanently closed object, even when used as a hockey puck in street hockey games. A suitable resin for this purpose is polypropylene.

[0041] With reference to FIGS. 7-11, another storage container 60 according to the invention herein is illustrated. The storage container 60 has a receptacle 62 and a lid 64. The receptacle 62 has a generally concave outer wall 66, the inside surface of which has a bore 68 extending from an entry opening 70 at top rim 72. A storage chamber 70 is defined within the receptacle 62.

[0042] The bore 68 defines the first part 76 of releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid 64 on the receptacle 62, in the form of an L-shaped bayonet slot also given reference number 76. It will be appreciated that in FIG. 7 the receptacle 62 is shown in section so that bayonet slot 76 is visible, and that there is an additional bayonet slot formed in the bore 68 diametrically opposite the bayonet slot 76. If desired, three or more bayonet slots may be deployed about the bore 68.

[0043] The bore 68 also defines the first part 78 of snap-fit securing means for permanently securing the lid 64 on receptacle 16. The first part of the snap-fit securing means is in the form of a groove or indentation, also designated at 78, formed below the L-shaped bayonet slot 74. With reference to FIGS. 9 and 10, the groove 78 is separated from the bayonet slot 74 by portion 80 of the bore 68. A dramatically opposed groove is similarly provided below the dramatically opposed second bayonet slot.

[0044] The outer surface 82 of the receptacle 12 is hemispherical, and therefore forms a portion of the exterior of a closed object in the form of a ball.

[0045] The lid 64 of the storage container 60 has a depending skirt 86, which fits into the bore 68. The skirt has a flange 88 extending radially outwardly therefrom. The skirt 86 is not shown in section in FIG. 7, and there is a second flange 90 diametrically opposed to flange 88, so that flange 90 cooperates with the bayonet slot 74 and the groove 78 disposed below it, as discussed below. The outer surface 92 of the lid 64 is also hemispherical, and defines the remainder of the exterior of a closed object in the shape of a ball.

[0046] With reference to FIGS. 8 and 9, the lid 64 may be releasably secured on the receptacle 62 by inserting the skirt in bore 68, including inserting the flanges 88 and 90 into the

bayonet slot 74 and its diametrically opposed counterpart. The lid 64 is then rotated to place the flanges 88, 90 in the lower legs of the L-shaped bayonet slots 74, etc., and a frictional or detente engagement may be provided to releasably retain the flanges in the bayonet slots. When the lid 64 is removably secured on the receptacle 12, the outer surface 82 of the receptacle is incrementally spaced by distance D from the outer surface 92 of the lid 64. The lid 64 may be removed by counter-rotation and axial retraction of the flanges from the bayonet slots.

[0047] It will, of course, be understood that the flanges of a bayonet-type releasable engagement means may extend from the bore 68 and the bayonet slots may be formed on the skirt 86, to provide for removably securing the lid 64 on the receptacle 62.

[0048] The storage container 60 may be used to package a variety of types of items in the storage chamber 66 and it will be further appreciated that the concave interior of lid 64 provides additional volume to the storage chamber 66 for containing items. The outer surfaces 82, 92 of the receptacle and lid are available for trademarks, logos, trade dress and product information, which may be applied as desired.

[0049] With reference to FIG. 10, the lid 64 may be permanently secured on the receptacle 62 by snap-fit engagement of the flange 88 in the groove 78 located below the bayonet slot 74 and snap-fit engagement of flange 90 into the diametrically opposed counterpart of groove 78. Axial compressive force causes the flange 88 to snap over the portion 80 of the bore 68, which may be provided with a ramped surface 84 to facilitate the process of the snap-fit engagement. Once the lid is permanently secured on the receptacle 62, the outer surfaces 82 and 92 of the receptacle 62 and lid 64, respectively, are co-joined to form the exterior of a closed object; namely, a ball.

[0050] It will be appreciated that lids and receptacles having outer surfaces forming the exterior of various kinds and shapes of closed objects may be substituted for the hockey puck and ball described herein. The other shapes may be ovoid, such as a football, or may even be polygonal, particularly when a bayonet-type releasable inter-engagement means is utilized for removably securing the lid and cover. Various forms of releasable engagement means and snap-fit securing means may also be employed.

[0051] Therefore, storage containers that are convertible to closed objects have been described which admirably fulfill the objects of the invention herein. It will be appreciated that the embodiments described are illustrative only and that those skilled in the art may make various changes and modifications in accordance with the principles of the invention, which is limited only by the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object, the container comprising:

- A) a receptacle having an outside surface corresponding to the partial exterior of a closed object; and having an interior surface defining a storage chamber;
- B) a lid for covering the entry opening and thereby closing the storage chamber, the lid having an outside surface corresponding to the remaining exterior of the closed object;

C) the receptacle and lid together defining:

- 1) releasable engagement means for removably securing the lid on the receptacle, wherein the lid may be removed to place and remove items from the storage chamber, the releasable engagement means incrementally spacing the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exterior of the closed object; and
 - 2) snap-fit securing means for permanently securing the lid on the receptacle with the outside surfaces corresponding to the partial and remaining exteriors of the closed object co-joined.
2. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 1 wherein the co-joined exteriors of the lid and receptacle form an object of sports play.
 3. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 2 wherein the object of sports play is a hockey puck.
 4. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 2 wherein the object of sports play is a ball.
 5. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 1 wherein the interior surface of the receptacle defines a bore extending from an entry opening and the lid has a skirt receivable in the bore, the bore and the skirt together defining the releasable engagement means and the snap-fit securing means.
 6. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 5 wherein the releasable engagement means are inter-engaging threads respectively defined on the bore and the skirt.
 7. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 6 wherein the snap-fit securing means comprise a flange radially extending from the skirt and a groove defined in the bore.
 8. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 7 wherein the groove is continuous about the periphery of the bore adjacent the entry opening.
 9. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 8 wherein the flange is continuous about the periphery of the skirt.
 10. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 1 wherein the releasable engagement means is an L-shaped bayonet slot formed in one of the bore and the skirt and a cooperating flange formed on the other of the bore and the skirt.
 11. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 10 wherein the L-shaped bayonet slot is formed in the bore.
 12. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 10 wherein two diametrically opposed bayonet slots are formed in the bore and two diametrically opposed cooperating flanges are formed on the skirt.

13. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 12 wherein the snap-fit securing means are two grooves defined in the skirt below the L-shaped bayonet slot for receiving the two flanges in snap fit securement.

14. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 10 wherein the snap-fit securing means comprises a groove formed in one of the bore and skirt below the L-shaped bayonet slot formed therein.

15. A container convertible to a permanently closed object, comprising:

A) a receptacle having an outside surface corresponding to the partial exterior of the closed object and having an inside surface defining a storage chamber;

B) the inside surface including a bore extending from an entry opening, the bore defining a first portion of releasable engagement means, the bore further defining a groove;

C) a lid for covering the entry opening and thereby closing the storage chamber, the lid having an outside surface corresponding to the remaining exterior of the closed object;

D) the lid including a skirt receivable in the bore of the receptacle, the skirt defining a second portion of the releasably engaging means for cooperating with the first portion thereof to removably secure the lid on the receptacle with the partial and remaining exteriors of the closed object incrementally spaced apart, the skirt further defining a flange which is non-releasably receivable in the groove defined in the bore of receptacle when the partial and remaining exteriors of the closed object are co-joined.

16. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 15 wherein the co-joined exteriors of the lid and receptacle form an object of sports play.

17. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 16 wherein the object of sports play is a hockey puck.

18. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 15 wherein the releasable engagement means are inter-engaging threads respectively defined on the bore and the skirt.

19. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 15 wherein the groove is continuous about the periphery of the bore.

20. A storage container convertible to a permanently closed object as defined in claim 19 wherein the flange is continuous about the periphery of the skirt.

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